

document he read was a series of resolutions that contained very structured language and has come to be called the “White Declaration of Independence.” Members of the press were called upon to serve as secretaries of the meeting.<sup>64</sup>

After Waddell completed reading the statement, the crowd responded with a standing ovation. Former mayor S. H. Fishplate wished for additional wording to be added to the resolutions requiring the resignations of the mayor, chief of police, and Board of Aldermen. George Rountree then stepped up to move that the resolutions and proposed amendment be reviewed by a committee of five men who would report back to the assembly with any necessary changes or recommendations. After Rountree’s suggestion was approved, he was placed on the committee along with Iredell

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information as it was necessary at that stage of the proceedings for him to be informed as from that time on he would be connected with the movement.” She also wrote that Waddell “was also made chairman of the committee of 20 men who were appointed to give the negroes a certain alternative concerning the Record printing press; and also he had charge of the impromptu affair at the armory, a thing not provided for; something unforeseen; and done on the spur of the moment. It was righteous and first, at least that part concerning the destruction of the printing press. Firing the building was considered to be a mistake and His being made mayor was something separate and distinct from the organization that was formed for the protection of the town.” She said that Waddell “was not present at any one of the meetings and knew nothing whatever of the plan of action until the night following his election as mayor, when he asked the leaders for information as it was necessary at that stage of the proceedings for him to be informed as from that time on he would be connected with the movement.” Mrs. Roger Moore, 1900, Mrs. Roger Moore Collection, University of North Carolina at Wilmington Library.

<sup>64</sup> Reporters who participated were E. P. Bell of the *Chicago Record*, N. W. Messenger of the *Washington Star*, Augustus Kohn of the *Charleston News and Courier*, T. W. Clawson of the *Messenger* and William J. Martin of the *Morning Star*. *Morning Star*, (Wilmington), November 10, 1898.

Meares, Hugh MacRae, Walker Taylor, and S. H. Fishplate.<sup>65</sup> The committee reviewed the resolutions and amendment while others called for a speech from Waddell, who advocated peaceful measures since he felt it unnecessary to “adopt violent measures as the editor of the *Record* would be dealt with.” In response, there were shouts to “fumigate the city with the *Record*.” Bellamy was also called to the podium and he, too, pressed for a peaceful end to the affair. Another speaker, P. B. Manning, urged moderation and claimed that the reason why the “people of Wilmington had not avenged the *Record*’s vile slander long before” was because they “had not had the time” due to the “great work of the campaign.” Manning also stated that to adopt Fishplate’s resolution would amount to “anarchy,” resting his faith in the new legislature to “make a clean sweep of the City Hall.”<sup>66</sup>

Committee members returned to the podium with the resolutions that were approved after a second reading. The committee reworked Fishplate’s proposal to force the resignations of the entire city government in favor of pushing for the resignation of the mayor and chief of police. Fishplate and another businessman, Nathaniel Jacobi, felt that the amendment’s replacement wording did not “go far enough,” and Jacobi indicated that he thought the leaders “should be commanded to resign one by one.” In response, Rountree explained that the “matter would be attended to.” After a second reading and assurances that the matter of the rest of the

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<sup>65</sup> *Wilmington Messenger*, November 10, 1898; *Morning Star*, (Wilmington), November 10, 1898.

<sup>66</sup> This statement by Manning clearly indicated that he and others were certain that the new Democratically controlled legislature would reverse Fusionist changes to the city’s charter. *Wilmington Messenger*, November 10, 1898; *Morning Star*, (Wilmington), November 10, 1898.